

THE SPIRITUAL FELLOWSHIP

And thus such a one often falls into pain and weariness, and becomes thereby unbearable to himself ; and so mars his perfect state. The taint of pride lies within this, and he perceives it not. For, if he were truly humble and not presumptuous, he would surely see that the first sweet Truth gives state, time, place, consolation, and tribulation, according as it is necessary for our salvation, and to complete in the soul the perfection to which she is chosen. And he would see that it gives everything for love, and therefore with love." The souls that have this perfect light, enamoured and panting with love, run to the table of holy desire. " They lose themselves, stripping off the old man, that is, their own sensuality, and they clothe themselves with the new man, Christ sweet Jesus, following Him manfully. These are they who are fed at the table of holy desire, and who have set their solicitude more in slaying their own will than in slaying or in mortifying the body. They have, indeed, mortified the body, but not as their chief aim, but merely as an instrument to aid them in slaying their own will ; for their chief aim should be, and is, to slay the will, so that it neither seek nor will aught save to follow Christ crucified, seeking the honour and glory of His name and the salvation of souls. These are ever in peace and in quiet. No one can scandalize them, because they have got rid of the thing by which scandal cometh, to wit, their own will. All the persecution that the world and the devil can give flows under

their feet; they stand in the water, holding fast to the
 branches of
 inflamed desire, and are not submerged. Such a
 soul rejoices at
 everything ; and she does not judge the servants of
 God, nor any
 rational creature ; nay, she rejoices at every state and
 every way
 that she sees, saying : * Thanks be to Thee, eternal
 Father, who
 hast many mansions in Thy house.' And she rejoices
 more at the
 diverse ways she sees than if she saw all going along
 one path;
 because she sees the greatness of God's goodness
 more clearly
 revealed. She rejoices at everything, and draws the
 perfume of the
 rose from all. And she does not pass judgment
 even upon what
 she expressly sees to be sin, but is touched with true
 and holy
 compassion, saying : ° To-day it is thou, and to-
 morrow it